

Mr. Walsh

File: OCI

25X1

OFFICE OF THE DD/I

23 April 1974

NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR

FROM: Ed Proctor

Friday evening you told me that the subject of a Cambodian defection came up in your conversations with Marsh. You asked for some background on this.

OCI reports that the mass defection hoax in Cambodia was the subject of a NID article on 9 March (copy attached). The US Embassy had forewarned that such a hoax was likely. After the story received some prominent press play, we decided that a NID item would be useful to put the matter in perspective.

C  
U  
R  
R  
E  
N  
T  
I  
N  
F  
O  
R  
M  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N

March 9, 1974

## Defections in Cambodia Are Exaggerated

Press reports about the defection of some 700 Khmer Communist troops to the government appear to have been exaggerated. [REDACTED]

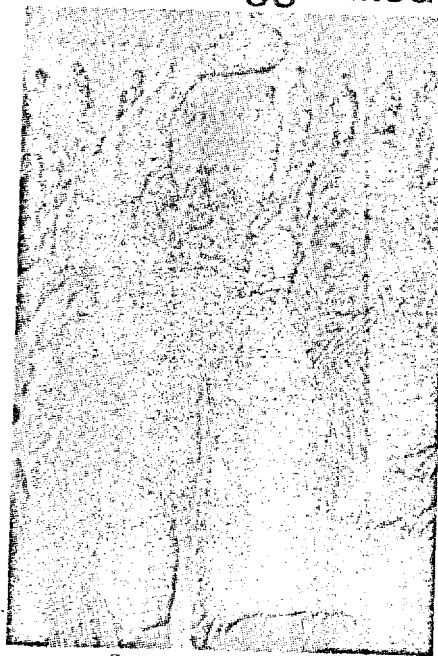
[REDACTED] are convinced that most of the 700 presented to the press last week were Phnom Penh residents paid to pose as former Communists.

According to the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, the civilian government officials who presented the alleged ralliers to the press last week have been promoting a scheme which is supposed to lead ultimately to the defection of 25,000 insurgents. The group presented to the press may be part of this scheme.

Stories of mass insurgent defections during the war are not new. Prominent figures like former prime ministers In Tam and Cheng Heng have in the past claimed to have large numbers of insurgent troops ready to defect.

They promoted such stories in part to demonstrate their personal ability to influence the insurgents. Others have used this tactic to improve their bureaucratic and financial positions.

The latter appears to have been a



*Communist Defectors*

motive in the latest episode. The civilian officials who were "negotiating" with the ralliers had already gone through substantial funds provided personally by President Lon Nol.

The officials are now seeking to have their defectors placed on army payrolls. [REDACTED]

25X1  
25X1  
25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/08/24 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000600130013-1

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL SECRET		
<b>CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY</b> <b>OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP</b>			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	D/OCI		
2	DDI		
3			
4			
5			
6			
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		XX INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
<b>Remarks:</b>  <p>The mass defection hoax in Cambodia was the subject of a NID article on March 9 (copy attached.) The US Embassy had forewarned that such a hoax was likely. After the false defectors received some prominent press play, we decided that a NID item would be useful to put the matter in the proper perspective.</p>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
OCI/EAPD/IC			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET

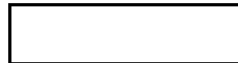
Approved For Release 2005/08/24 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000600130013-1

25X1

20 April 1974

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

The Director referred to a defector in Cambodia of a month or so ago which did not run in the NID mainly because it was a hoax. He would like to have a rundown on this matter. The subject was raised by Marsh in the discussions with the Director.



Ed Proctor

25X1

cc: D/OCI